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Agenda item 88 (a)

Groups of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 88 (see A/59/486, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 35th and 40th meetings, on 17 November and 16 December 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.35 and 40).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.42 and A/C.2/59/L.71

2. At the 35th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/59/L.42), which read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and its resolutions 57/276 of 20 December 2002 and 58/228 of 23 December 2003 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,
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> "*Reaffirming* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

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"*Recognizing* the importance of the review of the progress achieved towards meeting the goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as well as other internationally agreed development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as they address the special needs of the least developed countries,

"*Recalling* the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2004 of the Economic and Social Council on the theme 'Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010',

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the *Least Developed Countries Report, 2004: Linking International Trade and Poverty Reduction*,

"*Taking note also* of the report of the Secretary-General,

"1. *Reiterates* its deep concern over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

"2. *Urges* the least developed countries and their bilateral and multilateral development partners to increase concerted efforts and speedy measures for meeting the goals and targets of the Programme of Action in a timely manner;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with least developed countries, to explore the possibility of designating a task force comprised of least developed countries' development partners and relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, on each of the seven commitments of the Programme of Action; such task forces chaired by a team leader could play a catalytic role in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action;

"4. *Urges* the 2005 high-level event, in accordance with its modalities, to address the special needs of the least developed countries, while reviewing the progress made in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

"5. *Decides* to hold the midterm review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in 2006;

"6. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Brussels Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to take concrete measures for the full implementation of the provision contained in paragraph 8 of resolution 58/228;

"7. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, consistent with paragraph 34 of the São Paulo Consensus, to conduct annual analyses through the *Least Developed Countries Report* on the causes of the decline in the share of least developed countries in world trade and the linkages between trade, growth and poverty reduction, with a view to

identifying long-term solutions to the problem; and in this regard also reiterates the need for increased allocation of resources to undertake this task;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in a more analytical and results-oriented way by placing greater emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in its implementation."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 16 December, the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Azanaw Tadesse Abreha (Ethiopia), introduced and orally revised a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/59/L.71), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.42.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.71, as orally revised (see para. 7).

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the United States of America and Canada.

6. In light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.42 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] and its resolutions 57/276 of 20 December 2002 and 58/228 of 23 December 2003 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Reaffirming its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Recognizing the importance of the review of the progress achieved towards meeting the goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as well as other internationally agreed development goals including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as they address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2004 of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2004/66 on the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and 2004/67 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its sixth session, of 5 November 2004,

Taking note of the *Least Developed Countries Report, 2004: Linking International Trade and Poverty Reduction*,[3]

Recognizing that the eradication of poverty in the least developed countries will require, inter alia, steps to empower the poor, unleash their entrepreneurial skills and allow them to access, develop and use their assets,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

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[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.II.D.27.

[4] A/59/94-E/2004/77.

1. *Reiterates its deep concern* over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[2]

2. *Urges* the least developed countries and their bilateral and multilateral development partners to increase concerted efforts and speedy measures for meeting the goals and targets of the Programme of Action in a timely manner;

3. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the national, regional, subregional and global levels, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to engage the United Nations Development Group's team leaders, consistent with their respective mandates, in the coordinated implementation of activities of the Brussels Programme of Action;

4. *Invites* the 2005 high-level event, in accordance with the modalities to be set by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, to address the special needs of the least developed countries, while reviewing the progress made in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

5. *Decides* to hold the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in 2006 within the General Assembly during its sixty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, with modalities to be decided upon;

6. *Decides also* to consider at its sixtieth session these modalities for conducting such a comprehensive review;

7. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the participation of government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Brussels Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to establish a specific trust fund for the travel and subsistence of two representatives from each least developed country to attend the annual review of the Programme of Action; the trust fund should be funded by voluntary contributions;

8. *Calls upon* Member States and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to that trust fund;

9. *Welcomes* the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eleventh session to conduct analyses through the *Least Developed Countries Report, 2004*[3] on the causes of the decline in the share of least developed countries in world trade and the linkages between trade, growth and poverty reduction, with a view to identifying long-term solutions to the problem, as expressed in paragraph 34 of the São Paulo Consensus,[5] and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to conduct an analysis of the role that enterprise development can play in alleviating poverty in least developed

[5] TD/410.

countries and to recommend measures the Governments of least developed countries can take to promote the development of their private sector;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/66 in order to support countries graduating from the list of least developed countries;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in an analytical and results-oriented way by placing emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in its implementation.